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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 419
By Henry

A RESOLUTION To commemorate the grand opening of the new
downtown Nashville Public Library.

WHEREAS, The Tennessee General Assembly is pleased to specially recognize those
fine institutions that bring the joys of learning and culture to the citizens of this State; and

WHEREAS, Behind every great city is a great library, and with the impending opening of
the city's new Main Library downtown, Nashville is poised to become one of the greatest cities
in the country; and

WHEREAS, On June 9, 2001, Metropolitan Nashville Davidson County will unveil its
newest library, a spacious structure filled with modern technology, which will revolutionize the
library experience for all Nashvillians; and

WHEREAS, Located at 615 Church Street, the \$50 million building stretches an entire
city block, contains more than 300,000 square feet, houses a half-million materials, and features
reading seating for 1,200 patrons, program seating for 700 patrons, and 225 public use
computers; and

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WHEREAS, In June of 1997, the Metropolitan Council, with the support of thousands of library users and advocates, approved a property tax increase that enabled the generation of \$115 million in bond revenues for facility, collection, and technological improvements to the Nashville Public Library system. Funds were approved by the Metro Council to build five new branch libraries, renovate three branches, add materials and technology system-wide, and build a new Main Library downtown; and

WHEREAS, Four years after the historic approval of funding, Nashville's new Main Library, preceded by completion of all of the Library's branch building and renovation projects, is slated to open to the public, the dream of a city for its libraries finally becoming a reality; and

WHEREAS, Thanks to the more than \$8 million donated by the private sector, the new Main Library promises to be far more than a mere book repository; and

WHEREAS, Central to the building's design are the books, which are found on every floor in long rows of walnut-sided bookshelves, with sections also for a host of magazines, videos, audio books, DVD movies, music CDs, and cassettes; and

WHEREAS, The building itself wraps around a central courtyard garden with trees and a fountain, graciously endowed by Margaret Ann and Walter Robinson, offering library patrons a place to sit outdoors to read, eat, and visit with friends; and

WHEREAS, Through tall windows to the garden's east spreads the bright yellow, red, orange, and green children's area that includes a story room and a marionette theater with a hewn cedar column entrance; and

WHEREAS, Enhancements to the library's collections, artwork, and facilities were made possible by generous donations from the private sector, including Anita and William Cochran, Robin and Bill King, Sadye Tune Wilson, Ph.D., Bridgestone/Firestone, Friends of Adele and Bernie Schweid, Ingram Charitable Fund, Joe C. Davis Foundation, Junior League of Nashville, Mike Curb Family Foundation, and The Memorial Foundation; and

WHEREAS, Thanks to the dedication of Ms. Carolina Starks, the previous librarian, Ms. Donna Mancini Nicely, the present librarian, library users and advocates, the public sector, and the private sector; Nashvillians will soon be able to enjoy the cornerstone of the city's public library system, a state-of-the-art library funded by the people, for the people; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby join with the people of Nashville in commemorating the impending opening of their new Main Library on June 9, 2001, thank those fine citizens who generously donated their time, talents, and money to fund the library's construction and the purchase of technological equipment, and recognize the invaluable contributions the Main Library will make to the Nashville community and its cultural landscape.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.